

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6606

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFL

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO AEGEAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ATHENS 9307

1. THE ITINERARY OF THE SISMIK I INTO THE CENTRAL AEGEAN ON THE FOURTH PHASE OF ITS OPERATIONS IS NOWFAILY WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS. THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS DESCRIBED AS ANOTHER TURKISH PROVOCATION WHICH JEOPARDIZES THE POSSIBILITY OF BEGINNING THE BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AS CALLED FOR BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. SEVERAL
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NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE GOG HAS APPEALED AGAIN TO THE UNSC

AND THE ICJ ACCUSING TURKEY OF REFUSING TO CONFORM TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNSC AND THAT WITH ITS ACTIONS TURKEY NOT ONLY FAILS TO SHOW RESTRAINT BUT CREATES PROBLEMS FOR THE OPENING OF THE DIALOGUE.

2. THE TONE OF THE PRESS TODAY, WHILE SHOWING SOME RESTRAINT, REFLECTS THE INCREASED TENSION THAT PREVAILS IN ATHENS SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING WHEN THE NEW ITINERARY OF THE SISMIK BEGAN TO BECOME KNOWN. PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS HEADLINED THIS MORNING "HORE AGAIN IN ITS PROGRAM VIOLATES THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF -- NEW PROTEST TO THE UN AND THE HAGUE" WHILE PORTRAYING THE ACTIONS OF THE GOG IN REPORTING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE ICJ THE NEW "PROVOCATIVE" TACTICS OF TURKEY AS RESTRAINED. LIBERAL, ANTI-GOVERNMENT TO VIMA ENTITLES ITS STORY "HORA' AGAIN MAKES THE BEGINNING OF TALKS DIFFICULT," AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE NEW SAILING IS LIKELY TO HINDER THE TALKS WHICH TO VIMA REPORTS ARE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 25 BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. PRO-PASOK ATHINAIKI BANNERS "WHILE ANKARA IS SILENT AND HIDES ITS MOVES--THE SISMIK NEAR MYTILINI--GREECE WILL PROTEST ONCE AGAIN" AND REPORTS THAT THE GREEKS ARE CONCERNED OVER WHERE THE SISMIK I WILL PERFORM ITS RESEARCH. OPPOSITION, LEFTIST TA NEA HERALDS "ANKARA TESTS OUR RESOLVE--PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE DIALOGUE --WILL THE SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING BETWEEN BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL TAKE PLACE?" AND ACCUSES TURKEY OF SEEKING TO TORPEDO EFFORTS TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE AEGEAN PROBLEMS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. A RELATED STORY CONCERNS THE REMARKS OF GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY WHO IS TOURING TOWNS IN THE EVROS REGION BORDERING WITH TURKEY. IN HIS SPEECH YESTERDAY, MAVROS ATTACKED TURKEY AS A THREAT TO PEACE AND LABELLED THE CURRENT PHASE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AS CRITICAL. HE SAID THE COUNTRY MUST BE PREPARED FOR A LONG AND ARDUOUS CRISIS. HE CONTINUED TO CALL FOR A REEXAMINATION OF GREEK-NATO RELATIONS AND STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GRANT MILITARY AID TO A COUNTRY (TURKEY) WHICH THE UNSC HAS CONDEMNED FOR A SERIES OF CRIMES. TO DO SO WILL ONLY
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ENCOURAGE TURKEY FURTHER, HE SAID. THE PRESS ALSO NOTED THE DETENTION OF AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN FOR ALLEGEDLY TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF A GREEK NAVAL INSTALLATION AS A TURKISH AGENT, AND THE COMBINED MILITARY EXERCISE, "THE LARGEST IN 1976," WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN THE NORTHERN AEGEAN.
KUBISCH

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